

Appleby Fair Encampment Protocol

Introduction

Appleby Fair is the largest gathering of Gypsies and Travellers in Europe. The Fair runs from the first Thursday in June (unless the first Thursday falls on the 1st of June) until the following Wednesday. This large influx of Gypsies and Travellers on mass presents a unique set of circumstances in that a large number of motorised caravans and associated towing vehicles and horse boxes, bowtops and horses all wish to stay at many different locations but usually for a limited period of time. For the horse drawn element, this is a traditional staged movement towards Appleby-in-Westmorland stopping each night to feed and water horses.

Gypsies and Travellers are requested not to travel to the Fair earlier than necessary, however, a proportion move towards the Appleby area in the days and weeks prior to Appleby Fair. At the end of the Fair, the Gypsies and Travellers tend to disperse very quickly from the area of their own accord.

Appleby Fair is not an 'organised' event, there is no individual or organisation that runs or controls it. The Multi Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group (MASCAG) which was formed in 2008 provides co-ordinated community leadership and a forum for the various public agencies that have a regulatory role to facilitate a lawful, peaceful, safe and enjoyable Appleby Fair.

Aims and Objectives of the Encampment Strategy

The priority for all agencies is to protect and preserve life.

The Encampment Strategy is supported by the [Encampment Assessment Guide](#).

The aim of the Strategy is to effectively manage encampments which occur immediately prior to and after Appleby Fair in a manner which is lawful and proportionate, taking into account the needs, rights and traditions of the Gypsies and Travellers involved as well as the concerns and rights of landowners and the local community. There are a considerable number of stopping places which have been used by Gypsies and Travellers for many years in association with Appleby Fair.

The objectives of the Strategy and supporting guide are:

- to set a framework within which clear, consistent and appropriate decisions can be made in a transparent manner with regard to encampments in the Eden and South Lakeland District Council areas
- to ensure the needs and legitimate expectations of all parties (Gypsies / Travellers, landowners and the settled community) are considered and where

appropriate acted upon to contribute to public safety, to mitigate and minimise the impact from encampments and to facilitate the return to normal use of the areas

- to promote good relationships between Gypsies and Travellers and the Settled Community
- to ensure that the approach taken is in accordance with all relevant legislation
- to systematically assess and learn from previous experience, evidence and information gained and to utilise this to identify areas for improvement, to help minimise future problems and avoid more serious developments

In order to inform the above, detailed information will be recorded daily on the location, duration and size of each encampment in Eden and South Lakeland. Furthermore, the relevant members/ sub groups of MASCG will engage with stakeholders, including Parish Councils and community groups and Gypsies and Travellers, to seek their views, concerns and suggestions.

Monitoring and Review

The Encampment Strategy and Encampment Assessment Guide are endorsed by the Multi Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group. Relevant information and updates are provided to MASCG throughout the year at the scheduled meetings.

The encampments that precede and follow Appleby Fair are a unique entity as they are usually of short duration and the majority are in traditionally established locations. The Appleby Fair Encampment Strategy is only applied to encampments clearly associated with the Fair but not to other unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller Encampments in Cumbria throughout the year.

In recognition that Appleby Fair is a dynamic event, the Strategy will be reviewed annually. This will take into account any developments that have arisen since the last review and will allow sufficient time to consult upon and implement any necessary changes.

ENCAMPMENT ASSESEMENT GUIDE

The Encampment Assessment Guide provides a methodology to ensure as far as possible a consistent response to all encampments. To achieve this it is necessary for some decisions to be referred to MASCG to ensure input from all the relevant agencies at the relevant levels, this may be via teleconference

It is not the intention, neither is it necessary to complete this assessment for every encampment. The guide provides a useful aid for Police and Local Authority Officers when determining whether or not future action may be necessary in relation to a particular encampment.

The assessment will be used by all agencies involved, working together to inform the decision making process. In reaching any decision consideration may be given to:

- **Is immediate action necessary?** Inherent danger specific to that location will be an initial consideration.
- **Cause for concern** – is the encampment giving rise to justified calls for service from the local community?
- **Location ownership** – the views of the landowner will be sought to ascertain their level of concern
- **Location** – is the camp a traditional encampment location?
- **Alternative sites** - is there a suitable alternative site to direct people to?
- **Proportionality** – this will include obtaining details of duration of intended stay, size of encampment, environmental hazard and other relevant factors to that encampment
- **Legislation** – what is the legislative basis for any action?

ENCAMPMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT MATRIX:

1. A Location within the 1.5mile Zone or a Controversial Location

These are considered as high impact and where possible Police and Local Authority Officers will engage with the encampment to request they relocate. Referral to MASCG for a multiagency response if the encampment does not voluntarily relocate.

2. A685 - 'Highway safety' identified areas

These areas are considered unsuitable for any encampment and immediate action will be taken by the police without referral to MASCG or other agencies

3. A Location outside of the 1.5mile Zone

Score each question as to level of impact: 1= Low 2= Medium 3= High

	score
<p>1. Specific Encampment Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider potential hazards – road safety, obstruction / danger from grazing horses etc Permitted or Authorised encampment occupied outwith agreed dates 	
<p>2. Complaints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> number of justified complaints received actual evidence of damage /disorder / confrontation /intelligence of criminal activity 	
<p>3. Location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wishes of the landowner public safety likely impact on local community environmental issues horse drawn or vehicle drawn is it a traditional stopping place is there an alternative site any traffic management concerns other relevant factors 	
<p>4. Proportionality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> size of encampment duration of expected stay horse drawn / motorised 	
<p>5. Legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative basis for action (is there any breach of legislation) 	
Total	

Total Score:

5 – 8 Low Impact – continue to visit as part of normal Encampment patrols

9 – 11 Medium Impact – enhanced frequency of visits by Encampment patrols

12 – 15 High Impact – enhanced frequency of visits by Encampment. Request MASCG consideration of encampment and multi-agency decision on action.

The decision to seek to remove an encampment outside the 1.5 mile zone will not be taken as a routine response, where possible these encampments will be managed in their current locations. (except on A685 highway safety areas)